

Kan. Cong. Dist. No. 4
Garner Shriver

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kansas	
COUNTY: Kingman	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON:	Kingman City Building
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Northeast corner, Main street and Avenue C			
CITY OR TOWN: Kingman			
STATE Kansas	CODE 67068	COUNTY: Kingman	CODE 095

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Kingman County Historical Society			
STREET AND NUMBER: 			
CITY OR TOWN: Kingman	STATE: Kansas	CODE 67068	CODE 20

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Register of Deeds			
STREET AND NUMBER: Kingman County Courthouse			
CITY OR TOWN: Kingman	STATE: Kansas	CODE 67068	CODE 20

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: NONE			
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: 			
STREET AND NUMBER: 			
CITY OR TOWN: 	STATE: 	CODE 	

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Kingman City Building is a rectangular two-story building in the Renaissance style, located at the northeast corner of Main street and Avenue C in Kingman. It measures approximately 90 feet long, 25 feet wide, and 50 feet high. The exterior walls are of red brick and native stone. A flat roof covers the structure.

Windows in the building are large narrow rectangles with wood frames and appear in groups of three. Those on the second floor have small transoms which have either six or eight small square panes of colored glass. The first floor windows of the octagonal tower consist entirely of the small square panes.

Lintels and sills are made of rather large, rough-cut, native stone blocks, as is the water table which extends from the ground to the bottom of the first floor windows.

Two large openings on the first floor are spanned by flat stone arches; however, most of the opening on the south has been bricked shut and two frame double doors placed in the center of the opening. A modern garage door has been placed in the large arched opening on the west side. The three west windows on the second floor are also spanned by a flat arch.

The dominant features of the building are the two towers. The taller southwest corner tower is octagonal in shape except for the water table which is cylindrical. There are flat-arched windows on all eight sides of the third floor. Terminating this tower is an eight-sided pyramidal roof. The bell tower is square-shaped and situated on the south side above an entrance. It has arched openings on the third floor and a four-sided pyramidal roof. Both of the towers have ornate tin trim.

There is a very dominant tin cornice on the south side and on the west a pediment which bears the date "1888" and representations of firefighting equipment.

Alterations to the building in addition to the changes at the large arched openings include shingled awnings over two first floor groups of windows on the south side. The first floor is now being used by the Kingman Historical Society for museum and research purposes. The second floor, which contains a long hall and several smaller rooms, is not presently in use but will eventually house additional museum displays.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1888

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Construction of the Kingman City Building was approved by the Kingman voters in a special election on February 13, 1888. The \$10,000 bond proposal for the erection of a city building and fire station was passed by a 63-vote majority.

At the regular city council meeting of March 8, 1888, six bids were offered for the bonds; the council chose the highest bid presented, that of John A. Cragun, who represented the Kingman National Bank. Three councilmen--Leach, Woolsey and Arnold--were then appointed to secure plans and specifications for the building. Bids for construction were read to the council on May 21, 1888, and on May 29 it was announced that Hance White had the contract for the cut stone work and M. Doney was awarded the contract for the stone foundation.

The following week quarrying of white limestone began two miles east of the city. Cornerstone ceremonies were held June 23, 1888, and the building was completed shortly before December 1. The new structure housed city offices, the city jail and the fire department.

The two towers on the building had functional purposes as well as making the building a landmark in the community. The taller tower was built for the purpose of draining and drying the 50-foot joints of fire hose after they had been used. The second tower formerly housed a bell and now contains a siren, both of which were used to signal time for the community and to announce special events, such as the ending of World War I and World War II, in addition to serving as the fire alarm.

The city building was used basically for the original purposes until 1967 when the city made plans to purchase new office quarters and vacate the old building. The Sinclair Oil Company offered \$25,000 (later reduced to \$15,000) for the building site and later secured an option to purchase it. The oil company intended to erect a service station after razing the city building. Protests to save the structure were heard from many citizens and the Kingman County Historical Society. During the next two years town meetings were held to discuss the problem, and the historical society solicited donations to preserve the building as a county museum. A meeting

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

8. of the city commission, the oil company representatives and the historical society was held on October 20, 1969. Since the oil company's option had lapsed, the historical society offered \$5,000 cash for the building. The commissioners accepted that proposal with the stipulation that the building would be returned to the city if the museum closed within five years. The museum officially opened May 30, 1970.

The Kingman City Building, besides housing city offices and the fire department, has been used for elementary and high school classes, the city library, a lodge hall, the city police department and an apartment for the fire engine driver. It has served the citizens of Kingman since 1888 and continues to serve Kingman county residents as a county museum. Architecturally, the building is a good example of the Renaissance style in Kansas, and it is especially noteworthy because it is one of the oldest buildings in Kansas built specifically for use by a city government.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hurd, Fred, A History of Kingman County, 1871-1969 (North Newton, Kan., Mennonite Press, 1970), pp. 78, 79.
 Jurney, Sadie, "O, Ye Towers," Kingman Countian, November 22, 1962.
 Kingman Daily Courier, April 17, 20, May 8, 14, 22, 29, 1888.
 Kingman Leader-Courier, June 17, 1938; November 24, December 1, 22, 1967.
 Kingman Weekly Courier, February 23, March 8, April 12, 1888.
 Leonard, Bill, "Citizens Defend Leaning Tower of Kingman," Hutchinson News, December 2, 1962.
 "To Tear Down City Hall in Kingman, Kansas," Kansas City Star, December 7, 1967.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	37	38	44
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"	98	06	45
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: One acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:		Charles Hall, Architectural Consultant Richard Pankratz, Planner	
ORGANIZATION	DATE		
Kansas State Historical Society	September 8, 1971		
STREET AND NUMBER:			
120 West Tenth Street			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE	
Topeka	Kansas	66612	20

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name

Nyle H. Miller
Nyle H. Miller

Title

Executive Secretary, Kansas State Historical Society

Date

December 10, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS